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Identical letters dated 3 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to our letters regarding repeated attacks by terrorists against civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to inform you that on Sunday morning, 2 July, armed terrorist groups carried yet another act of terrorism in Damascus when they deployed three vehicles packed with explosives in populated parts of the city. One of the vehicles exploded in Ghadir Square in the Bab Tuma area, killing 20 persons and injuring dozens of innocent women and children. The terrorist groups, which some States like to call "moderate armed groups", also indiscriminately fired a relentless barrage of missiles and shells at the Syrian capital.

Over the past few days, Dar'a city, in particular the Kashif neighbourhood, was attacked dozens of times by armed terrorist groups that are backed by the United States, Britain and Jordan. Some 40 persons, mostly children and women, were killed and more than 100 defenceless civilians were injured in their homes. The attacks also caused material damage to public and private property, homes and the neighbourhoods where those criminal explosions occurred. We are not surprised that the States and parties that claim to be concerned about the lives and property of Syrians, including the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, did not issue even a single a statement condemning those attacks.

Those savage actions reveal the nature of the campaign that has been mounted by the agencies of the United States administration and its terrorist proxies in the region. As usual, the above-mentioned bombings occurred a few days before the Astana and Geneva meetings are scheduled to be held. The bombings were also preceded by the latest round of threats from the American Administration, including the false, fabricated and foolish allegations that Syria intends to use chemical weapons. The American Administration wants to use this allegation as a pretext to commit immoral acts against Syria. It is plainly obvious that the political and media campaign mounted by the American Administration and other supporters of armed terrorist organizations is intended to boost the morale of the armed terrorist groups, which are crumbling in the face of the significant strides that the Syrian Arab Army and its allies have made in restoring security and stability throughout the Syrian Arab Republic. The American campaign is also a clear signal to the terrorist groups that they can use chemical weapons in Syria under the open protection of the United States. For its part, Syria has categorically denied that it used chlorine gas in Ayn Tarma and has reaffirmed that any statements to that effect are simply lies.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that the international community must unite in the war against terrorism. It is inexcusable to use any justification whatsoever for turning a blind eye to those States and actors that train, shelter, finance, arm and fund terrorists. Syria also stress that it is imperative to punish those States and actors that have been exposed recently and clearly implicated in supporting terrorism and protecting Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, the Nusrah Front and associated organizations as they wage their war against Syria and other parts of the world. Syria furthermore stresses that shielding terrorists and their supporters is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, directly threatens international security and peace, and undermines all Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism.

The time has come for the Security Council to take stern measures against all those who facilitate terrorist crimes. It is no longer morally acceptable for Security Council members to shield those who support terrorism in Syria and for certain Western States members of the Council to be content with making pompous but empty speeches about countering terrorism.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Louay **Falouh**
Minister Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.